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Fluid Bodies

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Theses

regarding the PhD dissertation

Fluid Bodies

Physiology and Chemistry in the Eighteenth-Century Boerhaave School

by Ruben E. Verwaal

1. Chemistry of the fluids played an essential role in the medical and physiological understanding of the body in the eighteenth century.
 2. The debate on blood by chemists and haematologists was not a dispute about empirical facts, but a question of belief systems.
 3. The flowering of urine chemistry has shown that students were more important contributors to research than historians have often made them out to be.
 4. When it comes to breastfeeding, a professor proposes, but a mother disposes.
 5. Historians of health, medicine, and life style ought to always consider the insensible perspiration – for though it was invisible, it was ubiquitous nonetheless.
 6. The conception of semen and other bodily fluids in terms of chemical constituents reshaped medical perceptions of disease and enabled a reinvention of the field of pathology.
 7. The Boerhaave school of medical and chemical researchers was widespread and continued to thrive until the end of the eighteenth century.
 8. I discovered that the true “juice of life” is coffee.
 9. Writing a PhD is 10% inspiration, 90% perspiration.
 10. A street should be named after the most illustrious and renowned professor Hieronymus David Gaubius.
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